

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 AID-20 /101 W

----- 122330

O 111655Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0452

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

CINCSO IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BALAGUER UNHURT IN HELICOPTER CRASH.

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER ESCAPED INJURY LAST NIGHT (MAY 10) WHEN THE FRENCH-BUILT \$300,000 ALOUETTE HELICOPTER IN WHICH HE WAS RIDING CRASHED AND BURNED IN A STORM NEAR VILLA ALTAGRACIA, SOME 25 MILES NORTH OF SANTO DOMINGO. APPEARING BRIEFLY ON NATIONWIDE TELEVISION AT 10:30 P.M. MAY 10, THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS RETURNING FROM A VISIT TO PUERTO PLATA WHEN A STORM FORCED HIS HELICOPTER INTO THE SIDE OF A HILL. THE AIRCRAFT THEN CAUGHT FIRE AND WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED. BALAGUER SAID THAT HE AND HIS COMPANIONS, ARMED FORCES SECRETARY JIMENEZ, MILITARY AIDES CHIEF BISONO, PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY CHIEF MARTE, AND THE PILOTS, ESCAPED "MIRACULOUSLY UNINJURED". BALAGUER ADDED THAT THE EXPERIENCE HAD STRENGTHENED HIS FAITH IN GOD AND THE VIRGIN OF ALTAGRACIA AND HAD EVEN MORE STRENGTHENED HIS CONVICTION THAT PROVIDENCE HAD WILLED THAT HIS SERVICES TO THE POPULACE COULD STILL BE USEFUL.

2. COMMENT: COMING LESS THEN A WEEK FROM ELECTIONS, BALAGUER'S ACCIDENT NOT UNNATURALLY GIVES RISE TO SPECULATION THAT PERHAPS IT WAS NOT PROVIDENCE ALONE WHICH HAD A HAND IN THE CRASH. CERTAINLY, THE POSSIBILITY OF BALAGUER'S
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DEATH SHIVERS THE SPINES OF MANY DOMINICANS WHO FEAR THE

POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF HIS UNTIMELY DISAPPEARANCE. ONE RESULT
OF BALAGUER'S ACCIDENT, THEREFORE, WILL PROBABLY BE A STRENGTHENING
OF HIS ELECTORAL PROSPECTS NEXT THURSDAY, MAY 16.
CROWLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005